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04474526 \*\*Image available\*\* LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

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#### ABSTRACT

To obtain a liquid crystal display device in which the non-uniformity or PURPOSE: lowering of a contrast ratio can be prevented from occuring even when it is displayed for a long time and satisfactory display characteristic with a wide visual angle and high contrast can be obtained.

CONSTITUTION: A lateral electric field electrode 15 is arranged adjacently to one side 14a of an electrode 14 to form picture element electrodes 14 arranged in matrix shape in two areas A, B with different tilting directions of a liquid crystal molecule, and reverse tilt is generated by a lateral electric field at a part of the area for normal tilt decided by the orientation of orientation film 19, 23. The boundary of different tilt areas can be decided by an auxiliary capacitor (Cs) line 16 which bisects the picture element electrode.

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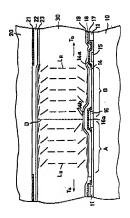
(21)出脚滑号 特剛平4-270649 (71) 出顧人 000003078 株式会社東芝 (22) 出贈日 平成4年(1992)10月9日 神奈川県川崎市幸区堀川町72番地 (72) 発明者 山田 ゆみ子 神奈川県横浜市磯子区新杉田町8番地 株 式合計東芝榴汽事業所内 (72)発明者 田中 康晴 神奈川県横浜市磯子区新杉田町8番地 株 式会社東芝横浜事業所内 (72)発明者 久武 維三 神奈川県横浜市磯子区新杉田町8番地 株 式会社東芝横浜事業所内 (74)代理人 弁理士 大胡 典夫

#### (54) 【発明の名称】被晶表示装置

#### (67) 【要約】

【構成】 マトリクス状に配置された回素電極14のそれぞれを被品分子のチルト方向の異なる2 模域へ、Bは 形成するために、電極14の1辺14 aに開接して横電 界発生電極15を配置し、配向駿19、23の配向によってきまるノーマルチルトに対して、その模域の一部に 横電界によってリバースチルトを生じさせる。異なるチ ルト領域の境界に顕素電極を2分する補助容量 (Cs)終 16によって同定する。

【効果】 長時間表示してもコントラスト比の不均一や 低下が発生せず、視野角の広い良好な表示特性で高コン トラストの液晶表示装置を得ることができる。



14/

【請水項 1】 行方向治よび利力向にそれぞれ配列形成される複数本の走金線および植数本の信号線と、マトリクス状に配催され前記走室線および相号線により制質される能助素子およびこれに接続される画素電極が形成され、前配調液程機を覆うように形成された配向膜を具備したアレイ基板と、前配調素を種と対向して置かれる共選電極と的記式直電極上に形成された配向膜を具備した対向基板を偏え、前配アレイ基板と対向基板の限度に配設され前犯配向膜により液晶分子が所定の角度および方10向にプレデルトされる液晶層とを具備した成成表示装置において、前配液晶分子のプレテルト角発生方向と反対方向の調楽電影外間に譲越して構設系発生電極を設けたことを検数とする液晶系が接管。

#### 【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】この発明は液晶表示装置に係り、 特にTN型の液晶表示装置に関する。

#### [0002]

【従来の技術】近年、薄潔軽量、低消失電力という大き 20 な利点をもつ液晶表示容量は、日本服ワードプロセッ サ、デスクトップパーソナルコンピュータ等のパーソナ ル〇A機器の表示装置や、テレビ等の映像表示装置とし で積極的に用いられている。特に、アクティブマトリク ス型の液晶表示装置は、高熔像度の表示が実現できるこ とから、解度が盛んに行われている。

【0004】 TN型の被晶表示装置は、見る方向によってコントラスト比や表示色が変化するという視野角牧告性がある。 従来の液晶表示装置の視野角牧育性を選定したデータの一般を図6に示す。 基根表面の近地位度を基準に、上下方向に観察方向を要えたときの特性で視野角のすなわち視点の角度のドボレてコントラスト比は対称にならない。一般に視点の角度のボマイナスに振和ると表示をの反転が起こるので、観察位置に制限がある。

【0005】このような視野角依存性を改善するため、

種々の技術が提案されているが、そのほとんどが、配向 処理に関するものである。例えば、特開昭63-106624 号 公報、特開昭54-88520号公報、特開平1-245223号公報で は各国素を複数の領域に分割し、それぞれの領域の配向 方向が異なるように配向処理をすることによって、視野 角依存性を改善している。このような配向処理の手法に ついて、例えば、特別昭60-211421 号公報、特別昭60-2 11422 号公報、特開昭60-211428 号公報、特開昭60-211 424 号公報に記載されているが、プロセスが非常に複雑 になり、生産性が低いという問題点がある。また、TN 液晶用の配向膜として一般に普及しているポリイミドは 所定のパターンにエッチングするのが難しく、前述のよ うな配向処理が異なる領域を作製することができない。 従って、面素を分割して配向方向が異なる領域を得るに は、保持率やプレチルト角等、被品表示装置の配向膜と しての信頼性が高いポリイミドを使用し難いため、配向 脚としての特性とパターニング容易性を兼ね備えた新し い配向媒が必要となるが、これ以上に適した部材はまだ 現れていないのが現状である。

【0008】ところで、関素電極の展開にはパスラインが形成されているため、パスラインからの機力向電界に よりプレラルトの方向とは異なる方向に発品分子が立ち 上がるチルトリパースという現象が生じ易い。このチルトリパースは正常なチルト領域との選界にディスクリネーションラインが発生し、パスラインの電圧によって変動するので、回覧の不良として通常プラックマトリクスで仮い過ぎれている。また、チルトリパース領域の発生を防止するための提案が多数なされているが、完全に解消するに差っていない。

# 0 [0007]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】上述のように従来の液 晶表示装置においては、視野角依存性があり、良好な画 像が得られないという問題点があった。

[0008] 本発明は、このような従来の問題点に健み てなされたものであり、広範囲の視野角において良好な 回質が得られる液晶表示装置を提供することを目的とす る。

## [0009]

「無層を解決するための手段」本発明は、行方向および 40 列力向に干れぞれ起列形成される複数本の定套解記を基 複数本の信号線と、マトリクス状に配置され節記を主 終される画業電極が形成され、前記画素電極を覆うよう に形成された配向膜を具備したアレイ基板と、前記画業 電極と対向して置かれる共通電極と前記共運。電配と対向 成された配向膜を具備した労働基板を備え、前起アレ 基板と対向して置かれる共通電極と前記共運。電配アレ 基板と対向に変した労働基板を備え、前起アレ 基板と対向に対した対向にブレチルトされる波晶層 クチが所近の角度および方向にブレチルトされる波晶層 とを具備した液晶表示装置において、前記板の子のブ 50 レチルト角発生方向と反射方向の画素電板外尾に降ける 50 レチルト角発生方向と反射方向の画素電板外尾に降ける 101

。 て機能界発生電極を設けたことを特徴とする液晶表示装 壁にある。

【0010】本発明の機電界外生電極は、画素電極との間に横方向電界を発生させ、液晶分子のプレテルトの方向とは異なる方向にテルトやを与えるためのもので、異なる方向にデルト角を付与される仮域をリバーステルト傾域とする。加える電極は必要とされるリバースチルト傾域とする。加える電極は必要とされるリバースチルト傾域の大きだより質官除をすればよい。

[0011] 本発明のプレテルト角発生方向は配向膜に より液晶分子に与えられるチルト角の方向であり、画素 10 電極と共通電框により均一な電界が与えられた場合に、 液晶分子が立ち上がる方向である。

#### [0012]

【作用】本知明では、横電外発生電極と面楽電極の間に 横電界を加えることにより、リバーステルト電域を発生 させる。リパースチルト電域とノーマルチルト機域が一 つの画葉内に形成されるため、ラピング方向が異なる領 域を一回集内に設けた場合と同様の効果が生じる。すな わち、リバースチルト観域が視野角依存性を低減し、視 野角が一回業全体として平均化され、画面全体では視野 20 角依存性が低減され良好な回機を得ることができるよう になる。

#### [0013]

【実施例】以下本発明の実施例について述べる。

【0014】(実施例1)図1および図2は本発明の実 施例を示し、ガラスでなる下部の基板10には、複数の 平行な走査簿11と信号線12が交集して形成され、交 **差部には能動スイッチング素子としてTFT13が形成** されている。平行するそれぞれ2本の走査線11と信号 線12で区画する傾城には圓素電極14が形成されてマ 30 トリックス状に配置されTFT13に接続されている。 **岡紫電極14の矢町Rで示すラビング方向の進入側の外** 周辺14aと走査線11の間には、走査線11に平行に ストライプ状の横電界発生電極15が形成されている。 この機能界発生電極15は任意の電圧が印加可能に形成 される。さらにこの横電界発生電極15に平行にしかも 爾森電板14の下地でこの網索電板を2分する位置に補 助弈量線 (Cs線) 16を配置する。機電界発生電極1 5の上に、走査線11と信号線12の間の層間絶縁膜と なる酸化けい素層 (SIOx)層17,窒化けい素層 (SINx)層18が形成され、この上に更に配向膜1 9が形成される。

[0015] 一方、上部のガラス基板20にはブラック マトリクス21および共運電極22が形成され、更に配 向線22が形成される。ブラックマトリク721は走査 線、信号線からなるパスラインと、画素電衝14の煥郎 とを覆うように配置される。これ62枚の基板の関係に は液晶層20が続けされる。

【0016】動作時は、共通電極22を基準にして國素 形成 電極14に例えば3V、機電外発生電極15に例えば150 る。

Vが印加されると、図のように液晶分子LR が機電界発生整理 15 と 国来電配 14 の間の検電外によりテルト角 を制御させて、国業電極 14 のラピンク強入方向側の辺 14 aの領域は矢印Tb 方向にチルト角が生じリパース チルト領域むとなる。

【0017】一方、ラピング進行方向報は微電界の影響 がなく改品分子LN は配向眺の配向方向にしたがいチル ト角発生方向はTb であり、ノーマルテルト候域Aのま ま保持される。このため2つの傾域の境界にはディスク リネーションラインDやウォールができる。 ブラックマ トリクス層 16 a を有するCs 練16 はこのディスクリ ネーションラインDを隠すようにが危煙される。

[0018] このようにリパースチルト領域Bとノーマ ルチルト領域Aが一つの画域内に形成されるため、視野 角依存性が低減され、良好な画像を得ることができるよ うになる。

【0019】次に本実施例の製造方法について説明す

【0020】まず下部のアレイ基板10は、ガラス等の 絶縁透明材料からなる基板上に、スパッタリング法でM o Ta合金等の金属膜を250 nm成膜後、パターニン グ、ケミカリドライエッチング法CDEによりエッチン グし、所定の形状の10μm幅のCs 練16および8μ m幅の走査練11、ゲート電極13G、8μm幅の横電 界発生電極15を形成する。次に、SiOx 層17をプ ラズマCVD法により350nm、a-Si膜(図示せ ず)、SiNx 層18をプラズマCVD法でそれぞれ5 0 nm. 200 nm形成し、S1Nx 層を弗酸系のエッ チング液がエッチングし、TFTのチャネル保護層(図 示せず) を形成する。オーミックコンタクトとなるよう にするためn'a-Si膜(図示せず)をプラズマCV D法により50nm成膜する。CDEによりn'a-S i膜、a-Si膜、SiNx 層18をエッチングし、所 定の形状にする。

[0021] スパッタリング法でCr、Alをそれぞれ 50nm,500nm複層して成職し、パターニングとして耐酸機能を設置を開設されて耐酸をリウムアンモニウム溶液で、Cr、Alをそれぞれエッチングし、8μ 幅6位得機12、ソース電極13S、ドレイン電極13Dの間に露出したか。a-51膜をソース電極13Bとドレインで極13S、ドレイン電極13Dをマスクにして、CDEでエッチング、除去する。更に1TO(インジウム繊酸化物)などの透明減電減を100nmスパック技で形成し、パターニングし、王水系エッチング被でエッチングし、五水系エッチング被でエッチングし、五水系エッチング被でエッチングし、五水系エッチング被でエッチングし、五水系エッチング被でエッチングし、1元系エッチングを200nm域度以下である。パッシーにといるに対し、20元間にボリイミド海膜を100nm形成した後、この配向膜用にポリイミド海膜を100nm形成した後、この配向膜19の表面をラビング処理す

**\ \* /** 

【0022】この結果、面減電極14の一辺14名の局線が機像界外生電極15に対して、純終層17、18を 幅でてその上面に重なるように配置される。また、両素 電極を2分する中央にCS 線16の厚みによる突状リッ ジ165が形成される。このリッジ165はパースチ ルト電域Bとノーマルチルト傾域Aの境界を形成しやす くするもので、機能界を発生したときに、このリッジと が電界や空生電極間の画楽電極例域を配向膜19のゲルト 方向(帽線と)とは遅れるとしばみたる人と、

[0028] 一方、上部の基板20は、ガラス等の絶骸 10 透明材料からなり、その上にブラックマトリクス21と なるCr等の金属膜を300mmスパッタ法で形成し、 フォトリソグラフィで格子状にパターエングする。透明

ン本町・ソフランスでは、1000円の 1000円の 10

【0024】この後、アレイ基板10の配向膜19の間 辺に沿って接着剤としてエボキシ系接着剤を注入口(図 示せず)を除いて印刷した。次にアレイ基板の表面に関 腺材(図示せず)として軟低5μmの機械球(様水ファ 20 インケミカル社製のミクロパール(商品名))を散布し た。次に配向膜19、23が対向し、またそれぞれのラ ピング方向が90度となるよう上下の基板を配置し、加 熱して接着剤を硬化させ両基板10、20を貼り合わせ た。

[0025]次に適常の方法により注入口より被晶材と して、 $ZLI-15\hat{6}5$  (E. メルク社製) にS811(E. メルク社製) CS811(E. メルク社製) CS811(E. メルク社製) CS811(E. メルク社製) CS811(E. CS

【0026】さらにこの後上下の基板に偏光板を貼り合わせ、アクティブマトリクス型液晶表示装置を作製し

[0027] このようにして作製した本発明による液晶 表示装置の機野角似存性を繋べたところ。図3に示すよ うな良好な結果が得られた。すなわち図3は基板垂直方 向も基準にして観察方向に傾いた角度を視野角のとした ときの、コントラスト比を称もので、上方、下方とも にほぼ対称的なコントラスト比が得られることが分か

[0028] (英雄例2) 図4は本実施例の液晶表示被 置を示し、図2と同一符号は同様な部分を示す。図に示 すように下部のアレイ基板10には、定金線11と回 電艦14の同に機能界発生電艦15が形成される。機能 界発生電艦15は機能界発生電艦15と信号線12の間 の層間接触機となるS10x 層27, S1Nx 層28上 に形成され画素電艦14の周線14aよりも上面に配置 される。

【0029】SIOx 層27、SINx 層28および横電界発生電極15は次のようなプロセスで形成される。 50

SiOx 層27はプラズマCVD法により350nm、SiNx 層28はプラズマCVD法でそれぞれ200 n m形成し、CDEによりSiOx 層27、SiNx 層28をエッテングし、所定の形状にする。さらに、スパッタリング法でCr, Alをそれぞれ50nm、500nm機関して成膜し、パターニングとして硝酸燐酸肝酸塩合治液はよび硝酸セリウムアンモニウム溶液で、Cr, Alをそれぞれエッチングし機能昇発生整個15を形成する。

10 【0030】このように、機能界発生電極15が画素電極の辺密分14aよりも上面に位置するので、回素電極14の極域と対向基板の電極22との間に形成される電界に、基板に平行な機電系成分を付与しやすく、小電界でリバースチルト複域を形成できる。

【0031】 (実施例3) 以下第3の実施例について述べる。

【0032】図5は本実施例の液晶表示装置の実施例で 図2と同一符号は同様な部分を示す。

【0033】 図に示すようにアレイ基板10には、走査 採11で挟むように圏業種極14が形成され、走登線1 1と間末電極14の間には機管発生電か15が形成されている。一方、対向基板20にはプックマトリクス 21と共通電極22が形成されているが、共温電極22の機電界発生電極15に対応する位置は切り欠き節22 aとなっている。このように横電界発生電極15上の共 温電極を取り除くことにより、横電界を強く発生させる ことができる。

[0034] 更に、本実施例では共通電極22のCs 験16に対応する位置は切り欠き部220となっている。 20ようにCs線16上の共通電極を取り除くことにより、安定にリバースチルト模域Bを形成することができる。

[0035] 本発明で用いられる配向膜はどの様なもの であってもよいが、プレチルト角が低いものが好まし く、1度以下が臨ましい。プレチル角が1度以下の場 合、機電界発生電極に加える電圧が低くてもチルトリパ ース模域を述くすることが可能である。

[0036]プロジェクター用の液晶表示装置等、一面 素が小さい場合には要求されるチルトリバース傾域の大 40 きさが小さくなるため、機電界発生電極に加える電圧が 低くても視野角を良好にすることができる。

[0037]また、本発明の積電料発生電極は面素電極 のラピング進入方向近静に形成されるものであり、形 状、材質などはチルトリバース領域が所定の範囲となる よう適宜決定すれば良い。

[0038] 本発明のチルトリバース模域の範囲は視野 角をどの様に設計するかにより、決定されるものであ り、ノーマルチルト模域とチルトリバース領域の比は1 対1に限定されるものではない。

50 [0039]

10/

【発明の効果】本発明によれば、長時間表示してもコントラスト比の不均一や低下が発生さず、視野角の広い良好な表示特性で高コントラストの液晶表示装置を得ることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明による一実施例の一基板の概略平面図、 【図2】図1を1-1線に沿って切断して示す構略断面図、

【図3】本発明による一実施例の視野角  $\theta$  とコントラスト比の特性を表す図、

【図4】本発明による他の実施例の一基板の概略断面図、

【図 5】本発明による他の実施例の一基板の網路断面 図、

【図6】従来の液晶表示装置の視野角 θ とコントラスト 比の特性を表す図。

【符号の説明】

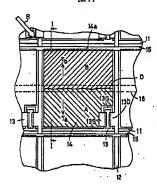
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14…面美電極 15…機電界発生電極 16…補助容量線 (Cs線)

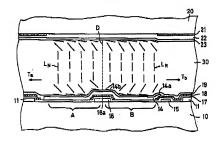
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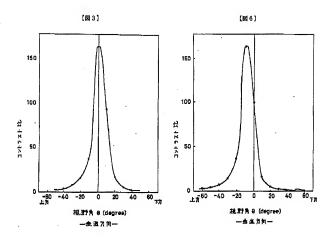
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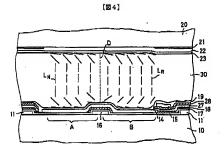
[図1]



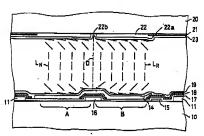
[図2]







[図5]



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【公報種別】特許法第17条の2の規定による補正の掲載
【部門区分】第B部門第2区分
【発行日】平成13年1月12日(2001.1.12)
【公開番号】特開平6-118426
【公開日】平成8年4月28日(1994.4.28)
【年通号数】公開特許公報6-1185
[出願番号] 特顯平4-270649
【国際特許分類第7版】
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[FI]
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【手続補正書】
【提出日】平成11年10月6日(1999.10.
                              向にプレチルトされる液晶層とを具備した液晶表示装置
B)
                              において、各面素電極内の一部領域に対応する液晶分子
【手統補正1】
【補正対象書類名】明細書
【補正対象項目名】特許請求の範囲
                              することを特徴とする液晶表示装置。
【補正方法】変更
                               【手続補正2】
【補正内容】
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【特許額水の範囲】 【前水項1】 行方向起よび列方向にそれぞれ配列形成 される複数本の世密線はよび俯数本の信号線と、マトリ クス状に配置され前配先策線はよび信号線により創御される他数半子もよびこれに整核される回常電塩が形成さ れ、前距画業電船を獲りよりに形成された配向組を具備 したアレイ基板と、前距画策電極分前して運かれる共 運電艦・前記光端電柱上形成された配向速を具備した が向基板を備え、前記アレイ基板と対向基板の関際に匹 数され前配面地関係とより混晶分子が所定の関策をよび 数され前配面地関係とより混晶分子が所定の角度なよび方 (19) Japanese Patent Office (JP)

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(54) [Title of the Invention]

Liquid crystal display device

(57) [Abstract]

[Structure]

A transverse electric field generating electrode 15 is disposed adjacent to a side 14a of a pixel electrode 14 in order to form regions A and B within each pixel electrode 14 arranged in a matrix. The regions A and B are regions in which a tilt direction of liquid crystal molecules is different from the other. Normal tilt is formed by alignment of alignment films 19 and 23. On the other hand, reverse tilt is generated in part of the

normal tilt region by a transverse electric field. An interface between the different tilt regions is fixed by an auxiliary capacitor (Cs) line 16 dividing the pixel electrode into two portions.

[Effect]

A liquid crystal display device having satisfactory display characteristics of a wide viewing angle and a high contrast, in which the contrast ratio is neither varied nor lowered regardless of the long time display, can be obtained.

[Scope of Claim]

[Claim 1]

A liquid crystal display device comprising:

an array substrate having a plurality of scanning lines and a plurality of signal lines each arranged in a column and a row, an active element arranged in a matrix and controlled by the scanning line and the signal line, a pixel electrode connected to the active element, and an alignment film formed to cover the pixel electrode;

an opposite substrate having a common electrode disposed to face to the pixel electrode and an alignment film formed over the common electrode; and

a liquid crystal layer disposed between the array substrate and the opposite substrate, and in which liquid crystal molecules are pretilted in a predetermined angle and direction by the alignment films,

wherein a transverse electric field generating electrode is formed adjacent to an outer periphery of the pixel electrode in an opposite direction to the direction in which the pretilt angle of the liquid crystal molecules is generated.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to a liquid crystal display device, especially to a TN type liquid crystal display device.

[0002]

[Prior Art]

In recent years, a liquid crystal display device, which has great advantages of thinness, lightness, and low power consumption, has been actively used as display device of personal OA equipment such as Japanese word processor or desktop personal computer, or as graphic display device such as television. In particular, an active matrix liquid crystal display device has been developed actively because high-resolution display can be realized. [0003]

In an array substrate of a conventional active matrix liquid crystal display device, a

plurality of scanning lines and a plurality of signal lines are arranged in a row and a column respectively over the major surface of an insulating substrate. In addition, a pixel consisting of a thin film transistor (hereinafter abbreviated as TFT) formed in the intersection of the scanning line and the signal line and a pixel electrode connected to the TFT is formed and further an alignment film is formed thereover. On the other hand, in an opposite substrate, a common electrode is formed over the major surface of an insulating substrate, and further an alignment film is formed thereover. The major surfaces of the array substrate and the opposite substrate in which the electrodes are formed are disposed to face to each other, and a liquid crystal agent is interposed therebetween. In general, an aligning process is performed to the alignment films on the array substrate side and the opposite substrate side so that the alignment directions are different by 90°; therefore, a TN type liquid crystal in which liquid crystal molecules align to be twisted by 90° in the thickness direction is used.

[0004]

The TN type liquid crystal display device has dependence on a viewing angle, that is, a contrast ratio and display color are changed depending on a viewing direction. An example of data obtained by measuring the viewing angle dependence of a conventional liquid crystal display device is shown in FIG. 6. There is a characteristic that the contrast ratio is not symmetrical to a viewing angle  $\theta$ , that is an angle of a view point  $\theta$ , when a viewing direction is changed up and down with respect to the correct position of the surface of the substrate. The contrast ratio is generally changed a lot depending on the angle of the view point  $\theta$ , but the display color is inverted if the angle  $\theta$  becomes minus; thus, there are limitations on the observed position.

[0005]

Many kinds of techniques are proposed in order to improve the viewing angle dependence, most of which relate to an aligning process. For example, Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. S63-106624, Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. S64-88520, and Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. H1-245223 disclose the following technique for the purpose of improving the viewing angle dependence: each pixel is divided into a plurality of regions, and an aligning process is performed so that an aligned direction of each region is different from the others. Although this kind of alignment method is described in, for example, Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. S60-211421, Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. S60-211422, Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. S60-211424, there are problems of the extremely complicated process and low productivity. In addition, polyimide that is generally used as an alignment film for the TN liquid crystal is

so difficult to be etched to have a predetermined pattern that the above described regions in which the different aligning processes are performed can not be formed. Accordingly, a new alignment film that has properties as an alignment film and that is easy to be patterned is required for obtaining the regions in which aligned directions are different from each other by dividing a pixel because it is difficult to use polyimide showing high reliability in the retention rate, the pretilt angle, or the like as an alignment film of a liquid crystal display device. However, there is no member more suitable than polyimide now.

Meanwhile, since a bus line is formed around a pixel electrode, a tilt reverse phenomenon, in which liquid crystal molecules stand up in the different direction from the pretilt direction due to a transverse electric field from the bus line, happens easily. A disclination line is generated in an interface with a normal tilt region, and this line is transferred depending on the voltage of the bus line; thus, this tilt reverse as the deterioration of an image quality is usually covered by a black matrix. In addition, many suggestions are made to prevent the generation of the tilt reverse region; however, problems are not completely solved yet.

[0007]

[Problem to be Solved by the Invention]

As described above, a conventional liquid crystal display device has problems that there is a viewing angle dependence and fine images can not be obtained.

[0008]

The present invention has been accomplished in view of the above conventional problems, and it is an object to provide a liquid crystal display device in which fine images can be obtained in a large range of a viewing angle.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

The present invention is a liquid crystal display device comprising an array substrate having a plurality of scanning lines and a plurality of signal lines each arranged in a column and a row, an active element arranged in a matrix and controlled by the scanning line and the signal line, a pixel electrode connected to the active element, and an alignment film formed to cover the pixel electrode; an opposite substrate having a common electrode disposed to face to the pixel electrode and an alignment film formed over the common electrode; and a liquid crystal layer disposed between the array substrate and the opposite substrate, and in which liquid crystal molecules are pretilted in a predetermined angle and direction by the alignment films, wherein a transverse electric field generating electrode is formed adjacent to an outer periphery of the pixel electrode in an opposite direction to the

direction in which the pretilt angle of the liquid crystal molecules is generated. [0010]

A transverse electric field generating electrode according to the present invention generates a transverse electric field with a pixel electrode and gives a tilt angle in the different direction from a pretilt direction of liquid crystal molecules. Further, a region in which a tilt angle is given in the different direction is defined as a reverse tilt region. The voltage to be applied may be set appropriately depending on the required size of the reverse tilt region.

[0011]

A direction in which a pretilt angle is generated according to the invention is one of a tilt angle given by an alignment film to liquid crystal molecules, and one in which liquid crystal molecules stand up when a uniform electric field is applied by a pixel electrode and a common electrode.

[0012]

[Operation]

In the present invention, a reverse tilt region is generated by applying a transverse electric field between a transverse electric field generating electrode and a pixel electrode. Since the reverse tilt region and a normal tilt region are formed in one pixel, it has the same effect as the case where regions having different rubbing directions are formed in one pixel. That is, the reverse tilt region decreases the viewing angle dependence and a viewing angle is uniformed at a level of an entire one pixel; thus, the viewing angle dependence is decreased and fine images can be obtained at a level of an entire screen.

[0013]

[Embodiment]

Hereinafter, embodiments of the present invention are described.

[0014]

(Embodiment 1)

Embodiment of the present invention is shown with reference to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2. A plurality of parallel scanning lines 11 and signal lines 12 are formed so as to be intersected, and a TFT 13 is formed as an active switching element at the intersection over a lower substrate 10 made of glass. A pixel electrode 14 is formed in a region comparted by the two scanning lines 11 and signal lines 12 each in parallel; further, the pixel electrode 14 is arranged in a matrix and is connected to the TFT 13. A transverse electric field generating electrode 15 parallel to the scanning line 11 is formed in a stripe pattern between an outer periphery 14a of the pixel electrode 14 on an approaching side of the rubbing direction denoted by an arrow R and the scanning line 11. The transverse electric field

generating electrode 15 is formed so that arbitrary voltage can be applied. Furthermore, an auxiliary capacitor line (Cs line) 16 is disposed parallel to this transverse electric field generating electrode 15 and also disposed in a position dividing this pixel electrode 14 in half by being the base of the pixel electrode 14. A silicon oxide  $(SiO_x)$  layer 17 and a silicon nitride  $(SiN_x)$  layer 18 becoming interlayer insulating films between the scanning line 11 and the signal line 12 are formed over the transverse electric field generating electrode 15; further, an alignment film 19 is formed thereover.

[0015]

On the other hand, a black matrix 21 and a common electrode 22 are formed over an upper glass substrate 20, and an alignment film 23 is also formed. The black matrix 21 is disposed to cover a bus line formed of the scanning line and the signal line and to cover an edge portion of the pixel electrode 14. A liquid crystal layer 30 is interposed between these two substrates.

[0016]

If, for example, voltages of 3V and 1V is applied to the pixel electrode 14 and the transverse electric field generating electrode 15 respectively on the basis of the common electrode 22 during operation, the tilt angle is controlled by liquid crystal molecules  $L_R$  due to the transverse electric field between the transverse electric field generating electrode 15 and the pixel electrode 14 as shown in the figure. Thus, a tilt angle is generated in a direction denoted by an arrow Tb in a region of the periphery 14a of the pixel electrode 14 on the approaching side of the rubbing direction, and the region becomes a reverse tilt region B.

[0017]

On the other hand, a side of the rubbing proceeding direction is not under the influence of the transverse electric field, and a tilt angle generating direction of liquid crystal molecules  $L_N$  is  $T_b$  depending on the alignment direction of the alignment films; thus, the region is maintained to be a normal tilt region A. Accordingly, a disclination line D or a wall is formed in an interface between the two regions. The  $C_S$  line 16 including a black matrix layer 16a is disposed to cover this disclination line D.

[0018]

As described above, the reverse tilt region B and the normal tilt region A are formed in one pixel. Thus, the viewing angle dependence is decreased and fine images can be obtained.

[0019]

Next, a manufacturing method of this embodiment is explained.

[0020]

The lower array substrate 10 is formed as follows. First, a metal film such as an MoTa alloy is formed to have a film thickness of 250 nm by a sputtering method over a substrate formed of an insulating transparent material such as glass, and then it is patterned and etched by a chemical dry etching method (CDE) to form the Cs line 16 of 10  $\mu m$  width and the scanning line 11 of 8  $\mu m$  width, a gate electrode 13G, and the transverse electric field generating electrode 15 of 8  $\mu m$  width each having a predetermined shape. Next, an SiO\_x layer 17 is formed to have a thickness of 350 nm by a plasma CVD method, and an a-Si film (not shown in figures) and an SiN\_x layer 18 are formed to have a thickness of 50 nm and 200 nm respectively by a plasma CVD method. Thereafter, the SiN\_x layer is etched by a hydrofluoric acid-based etchant to form a channel protective layer of the TFT (not shown in figures). An n\* a-Si film (not shown in figures) of 50 nm thick is formed by a plasma CVD method to realize ohmic contact. Further, each of the n\* a-Si film, the a-Si film, and the SiN\_x layer 18 is etched to have a predetermined shape by CDE. [0021]

Cr and Al are laminated by a sputtering method each to have a film thickness of 50 nm and 500 nm to be deposited. Then, Cr and Al are each etched as patterning by a mixture of nitric acid, phosphoric acid, and acetic acid and a ceric ammonium nitrate solution to form the signal line 12 of 8  $\mu m$  width, a source electrode 13S, and a drain electrode 13D. The  $n^+$  a-Si film exposed between the source electrode 13S and the drain electrode 13D is etched to be removed by CDE using the source electrode 13S and the drain electrode 13D as masks. Furthermore, a transparent conductive film such as ITO (indium tin oxide) is formed to have a film thickness of 100 nm by a sputtering method, and patterned. Thereafter, the transparent conductive film is etched by an aqua regia-based etchant to form the pixel electrode 5[sic] in a rectangular whose size is 65  $\mu m \times 65$   $\mu m$ , and an SiN $_x$  film of 200 nm thick as a passivation film (not shown in figures) is formed. Furthermore, a polyimide thin film of 100 nm thick for an alignment film is formed, and then a rubbing process is performed on the surface of this alignment film 19. [0022]

As a result, the peripherally of the side 14a of the pixel electrode 14 is disposed so as to overlap with the upper surface of the transverse electric field generating electrode 15 where the insulating films 17 and 18 are interposed therebetween. A bossy ridge 16b due to a thickness of the Cs line 16 is formed in a central area dividing the pixel electrode into two portions. An interface between the reverse tilt region B and the normal tilt region A is formed easily due to this ridge 16, and a pixel electrode region between the ridge and the transverse electric field generating electrode becomes a reverse tilt region different from the tilt direction of the alignment film 19 (region A) when a transverse electric field is

generated.

[0023]

On the other hand, the upper substrate 20 is formed of an insulating transparent material such as glass, and a meal film such as Cr becoming the black matrix 21 is formed to have a thickness of 300 nm by sputtering and then is patterned to have a grid shape by photolithography. A 100 nm thick transparent conductive film is formed by a sputtering method to be a common electrode 22. Further, after forming a 100 nm thick polyimide thin film, a rubbing process is performed on the surface of the alignment film 23. [0024]

Thereafter, an epoxy-based adhesive is printed as an adhesive along a circumference of the alignment film 19 formed over the array substrate 10. Note that the adhesive is not printed in an inlet (not shown in figures). Next, microspheres having a grain size of 5  $\mu$ m (Micro Perl (product name) produced by Fine Chemicals Division, Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd.) as a gap material (not shown in figures) is dispersed on the surface of the array substrate. Subsequently, after the upper and lower substrates are disposed so that the alignment film 19 are faced to the alignment film 23 and the rubbing directions are set to be different from each other by 90°, the both substrates 10 and 20 are attached by heating to cure the adhesive.

[0025]

Next, ZLI-1565 (produced by E. Merk & Co. Inc.) added with S811 (produced by E. Merk & Co. Inc.) of 0.1 wt% as a liquid crystal material is injected from the inlet to form a 5 µm thick liquid crystal layer 30 by a general method. Subsequently, the inlet is sealed with a ultraviolet curable resin.

[0026]

Thereafter, polarization plates are further attached to the upper and lower substrates; thus, an active matrix liquid crystal display device is completed.

[0027]

A viewing angle dependence of a liquid crystal display device thus manufactured according to the present invention is examined, and a preferable result shown in FIG. 3 is obtained. In other words, FIG. 3 shows a contrast ratio when an angle inclining to the viewing direction on the basis of the substrate vertical direction is set to be a viewing angle  $\theta$ , and it is assured that an almost symmetrical contrast ratio can be obtained in both upper and lower directions.

[0028]

(Embodiment 2)

FIG. 4 shows a liquid crystal display device according to the present invention, and

same portions are denoted by the same reference numerals in FIG. 2. As shown in the figure, a transverse electric field generating electrode 15 is formed between a scanning line 11 and a pixel electrode 14 over a lower array substrate 10. The transverse electric field generating electrode 15 is formed over an  $SiO_x$  layer 27 and an  $SiO_x$  layer 28 becoming insulating films between the transverse electric field generating electrode 15 and a signal line 12, and it is also disposed over an outer periphery 14a of the pixel electrode 14. [0029]

The  $\mathrm{SiO}_x$  layer 27, the  $\mathrm{SiN}_x$  layer 28, and the transverse electric field generating electrode 15 are formed in the following processes. The  $\mathrm{SiO}_x$  layer 27 is formed to have a film thickness of 350 nm by a plasma CVD method, the  $\mathrm{SiN}_x$  layer 28 is formed to have a film thickness of 200 nm by a plasma CVD method, and then the  $\mathrm{SiO}_x$  layer 27 and the  $\mathrm{SiN}_x$  layer 28 each are etched to have a predetermined shape by CDE. Further, Cr and Al are laminated by a sputtering method each to have a film thickness of 50 nm and 500 nm to be deposited, and they are etched as patterning by a mixture of nitric acid, phosphoric acid, and acetic acid and a ceric ammonium nitrate solution to form the transverse electric field generating electrode 15.

[0030]

In this manner, the transverse electric field generating electrode 15 is formed upper than a side portion 14a of the pixel electrode; thus, components of a transverse electric field parallel to the substrate can be easily imparted to an electric field formed between a region of the pixel electrode 14 and an electrode 22 of an opposite substrate. Consequently, a reverse tilt region B can be formed with a small electric field.

[0031]

(Embodiment 3)

Hereinafter, Embodiment 3 is described.

[0032]

FIG. 5 shows an embodiment of a liquid crystal display device according to this embodiment. Same portions are denoted by the same reference numerals in FIG. 2. [0033]

A pixel electrode 14 is formed to be interposed by scanning lines 11, and a transverse electric field generating electrode 15 is formed between the scanning line 11 and the pixel electrode 14 over an array substrate 10 as shown in the figure. On the other hand, a black matrix 21 and a common electrode 22 are formed over an opposite substrate 20. Note that the position of the common electrode 22 corresponding to the transverse electric field generating electrode 15 is shown as a cut-out portion 22a. By removing the common electrode over the transverse electric field generating electrode 15 in this manner, a strong

transverse electric field can be obtained.

[0034]

Further, the position of the common electrode 22 corresponding to a Cs line 16 is shown as a cut-out portion 22b in this embodiment. By removing the common electrode over the Cs line 16 in this manner, a reverse tilt region B can be formed stably.

[0035]

Any alignment film can be used in the present invention; however, it is preferable to use one whose pretilt angle is small, preferably  $1^{\circ}$  or less. When the pretilt angle is  $1^{\circ}$  or less, a tilt reverse region can be expanded even if the low voltage is applied to the transverse electric field generating electrode.

[0036]

In the case where one pixel is small, for example, a liquid crystal display device for a projector, a required size of the tilt reverse region becomes smaller; thus, a preferable viewing angle can be obtained even if the low voltage is applied to the transverse electric field generating electrode.

[0037]

In addition, the transverse electric field generating electrode according to the present invention is formed in the neighborhood of the rubbing approaching direction of the pixel electrode, and the shape, the material, or the like may be decided appropriately so that the tilt reverse region is formed in a predetermined area.

[0038]

The area of the tilt reverse region according to the present invention is decided depending on how a viewing angle is set. The ratio of the normal tilt region and the tilt reverse region is not limited to that of 1:1.

[0039]

[Effect of the invention]

According to the present invention, a liquid crystal display device having satisfactory display characteristics of a wide viewing angle and a high contrast, in which the contrast ratio is neither varied nor lowered regardless of the long time display, can be obtained.

[Brief Description of Drawings]

[FIG. 1] a schematic plan view of a substrate in an embodiment according to the present invention.

[FIG. 2] a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line I-I of FIG. 1.

[FIG. 3] a graph showing a characteristic of a viewing angle  $\theta$  and a contrast ratio in an embodiment according to the present invention.

[FIG. 4] a schematic cross-sectional view of a substrate in the other embodiment according to the present invention.

\* [FIG. 5] a schematic cross-sectional view of a substrate in the other embodiment according to the present invention.

[FIG. 6] a graph showing a characteristic of a viewing angle  $\theta$  and a contrast ratio in a conventional liquid crystal display device.

[Description of the References Symbols]

10 array substrate

11 scanning line

12 signal line

13 TFT

14 pixel electrode

15 transverse electric field generating electrode

16 auxiliary capacitor line (Cs line)

20 opposite substrate

30 liquid crystal layer

A normal tilt region

B reverse tilt region

D disclination line

[Type of Gazette] Correction under the provision of Patent Law Section 17(2).

[Division Section] The 6th division, the second section

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[Date of Publication] April 28, 1994

[Annual Serial Number] Published Patent 6-1185

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[IPC 7th Edition] G02F 1/1343

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# [Amendment]

[Date submitted] October 6, 1999

[Amendment 1]

[Document Amended] Specification

[Item Amended] Scope of Claim

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Contents of Amendment]

[Scope of Claim]

[Claim 1]

A liquid crystal display device comprising:

an array substrate having a plurality of scanning lines and a plurality of signal lines each arranged in a column and a row, an active element arranged in a matrix and controlled by the scanning line and the signal line, a pixel electrode connected to the active element, and an alignment film formed to cover the pixel electrode;

an opposite substrate having a common electrode disposed to face to the pixel electrode and an alignment film formed over the common electrode; and

a liquid crystal layer disposed between the array substrate and the opposite substrate, and in which liquid crystal molecules are pretilted in a predetermined angle and direction by the alignment films,

wherein an transverse electric field generating electrode is formed to control liquid crystal molecules corresponding to a part of a region in the pixel electrode so that the liquid crystal molecules corresponding to a part of a region in the pixel electrode have different standing up direction or standing down direction from liquid crystal molecules in a region other than the part of a region.

[Amendment 2]

[Document Amended] Specification

[Item Amended] 0001

[Method of Amendment] Modification

[Contents of Amendment]

[0001]

[Industrial Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to a liquid crystal display device.

[Amendment 3]

[Document Amended] Specification

[Item Amended] 0011

[Method of Amendment] Deletion